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OCI No. 1660/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
9 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #196 - Summary of Situation
from 9:00 am EDT - 1:00 pm EDT)

1. United Press reports that another Marine was wounded by sniper fire today in Santo Domingo, but the item gave no details on how or when it happened. The story also says that the contending Dominican regimes both have been broadcasting reports intimating that the Organization of American States had recognized their side as the legal government.

2. In a talk yesterday afternoon at rebel headquarters between Caamano, surrounded by his "cabinet," and representatives of the Organization of American States, Caamano's group recited a long list of accusations against US forces. They also complained about the installation of the Government of National Reconstruction in the old fairgrounds and particularly of the transfer of loyalist troops to the fairgrounds. The rebel leaders also hinted that the "Act of Santo Domingo," the current cease fire agreement, was possibly no longer valid since the Government of National Reconstruction was not a party to the Act. The Organization of American States officials found Caamano more intransigent than ever. When they attempted to sound out the Caamano group on the subject of initiating talks with Antonio Imbert, the rebel leaders charged that Imbert's government was a front for the old generals.

3. Following their visit with Caamano, the Organization of American States representatives talked with Imbert, who told them that he wanted to do everything possible to initiate talks with Caamano.

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If these efforts fail, he said, then his forces would have no other recourse but to move against the Caamano camp. Imbert said he would be delighted to meet alone with Caamano as proposed by the Papal Nuncio.

4. The US liaison officer with the OAS in Santo Domingo has again expressed his serious concern that at this critical point the Organization of American States Commission is being reduced, with the departure of the Panamanian representative Morrice, to just the Brazilian civilian and military advisers, both of whom he termed lightweights. Although Jose Mora, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, remains in the country, the US liaison officer states that in case of serious trouble the Organization of American State's presence is not such as to permit it to move quickly and boldly to head it off.

5. Ambassador Bennett reports that Dominican politicians who were conspicuously silent recently are now "coming forth with cries of anguish" as the result of the installation of the Government of National Reconstruction under Antonio Imbert. Partisans of former Dominican president Balaguer are especially noisy and are charging that Imbert is unlikely to schedule elections. The ambassador points out, however, that Imbert was the only Dominican with enough courage to tackle the job of assembling a government during a particularly perilous period, and if he should succeed even temporarily, the country will owe him a real debt.

6. The ambassador also reports that the rebels are still actively trying to stir up the rest of the country to take to the streets or to go on strike. Along these lines, there are unconfirmed rumors that the rebels are moving arms to Santiago, and there are reliable reports that they are seeking to generate a strike at the government-owned sugar corporation's facilities. On the labor scene, Monday 10 May should prove to be an important day, since the Imbert junta has been urging all workers to return to their jobs then. Monday will also be significant in that some of the Caamano "government's" appointees are expected to try and take office at that time.

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LATE ITEM

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[redacted] the US-manned checkpoints in the city have reported the following: Checkpoint #1 was under heavy fire as of 12:45 pm EDT; Checkpoint #2 had received sniper fire at 12 noon EDT; and Checkpoint #3 had not been subjected to fire this morning.

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Office of Current Intelligence
9 May 1965

ADDENDUM TO DOMINICAN SITREP
(Report #196 - as of 1:00 pm EDT)

Ambassador Bennett reports that the upshot of a meeting he held with General Wessin yesterday was a written commitment on Wessin's part to retire as soon as several widely discredited Dominican military leaders have been removed or retired. The ambassador comments that the letter containing this commitment is that of a patriot, and points out that Wessin has unfairly been made the "archvillain" in the current situation by all political elements. Nevertheless, his retirement and departure from the country at least temporarily would appear to be essential to any solution of the present situation in the Dominican Republic. Without any real basis, the US has been linked with Wessin in the minds of the people, and from this standpoint too Wessin's departure would be desirable. Wessin himself suggested that several corrupt Dominican generals who have been such a burden to the country be dismissed or removed; he named army generals Montas Guerrero, Hermida, Rivera Cuesta, and Valdes Hilario, air force general Atila Luna, and police general Belisario Peguero as officers whose removal would be necessary before he could retire. Efforts are presently being made to work out the details for such removals.

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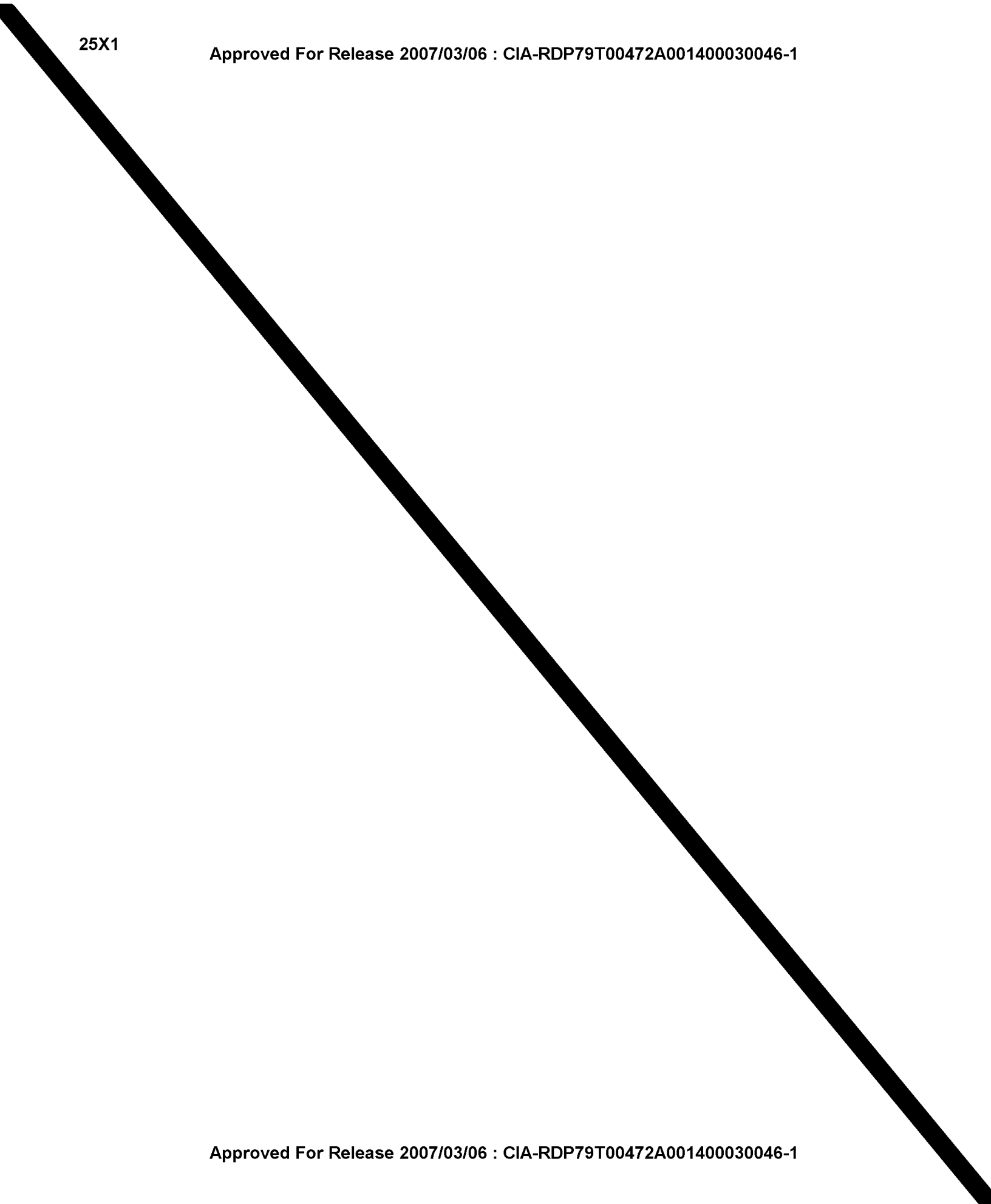

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